Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 25 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 26 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 25 Jan 2024 at 01:50

Confidence: High for unsettled westerly pattern with generally mild conditions for the winter. Lowering for detail of worst of weather.

Headline for Thursday 25 Jan 2024: Overcast with rain that turns heavy at times. Freezing level lifting. Summit gales developing from mid-day.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 25 Jan 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Fog
Precipitation probability					
80%	80%	70%	80%	80%	40%

Forecast for Thursday 25 Jan 2024

Weather: Cloud thickening overnight to bring periods of rain across the area before dawn. Overcast for the day and evening with rain most persistent and heavy across the west of the area.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Less than 10%

Low cloud and visibility: Becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor within cloud with bases extensive above 450m with patches below.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 25 Jan 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	35/42 SE	41/50 S	43/53 S	43/53 SW	46/57 SW	47/59 SW	48/61 SW
600	30/42 SE	32/43 S	32/42 S	34/46 SW	33/45 SW	41/55 SW	38/53 SW
300	10/30 S	6/25 S	11/32 S	13/35 SW	11/33 SW	17/41 SW	14/41 SW
Valley	8/25 SE	6/25 S	12/31 S	13/31 SW	12/31 SW	17/37 SW	17/41 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-5	4/-4	5/-2	6/-1	6/-1	5/-2	4/-4
600	3/-4	4/-2	6/1	7/1	7/1	7/1	6/-1
300	5/1	5/3	7/4	8/4	8/5	8/4	8/4
Valley	6/4	7/5	9/6	9/6	9/7	9/6	9/6
Freezing Level*	1200m	1900m	2100m	2200m	2200m	1700m	1600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Very difficult conditions with extensive hill fog and driving rain and severe wind chill at height.

Forecast for Friday 26 Jan 2024

Weather: Heavy rain for a time during the early hours with snow above 600m on the retreating back edge, clearing to blustery showers before dawn. Blustery showers by day gradually dwindling with bright and sunny spells increasing into the afternoon.

Maximum wind: West or southwest mean 35mph with gusts 50mph across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: By day 25% becoming 80% for the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases quite frequently down to 600m at dawn, before lifting and breaking for the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 Celsius increasing 8 Celsius for the afternoon
At 800m: Zero to minus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: 600-800m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 24 January 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Full report: Following the recent rain and milder temperatures, most of the Lakeland fells and paths up to, and including, summit level are now free from snow and ice. Indeed, many paths and rocks were actually dry. Snow was encountered in isolated sheltered spots and hollows as low as 650m; however the vast majority now lies above 850m on steep north and especially east facing slopes. As such most are easily avoided and present no difficulty to walkers. A notable exception being the exits to both Striding and especially Swirral Edges which are both guarded by banks of deep, steep, unavoidable snow. This snow was soft today but with the summit temperature at midday hovering around zero it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for this snow to harden. Thus it is strongly recommended that anyone attempting the Helvellyn edges, or similar exposed routes above the snowline, carry an ice axe and crampons as these snowbanks are in locations where a slip not quickly arrested could have serious consequences. There were isolated patches of ice on paths above 700m where the snow had been compacted. Again, most were easily avoided. Also again, the exception was on Swirral Edge. The crest of which was mostly dry rock; however there were annoying/treacherous isolated patches of ice also present. Hence extreme caution is required and, frequently today, 3 points of contact with the rock given the strong and gusty nature of the wind. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the summit temperature around midday was only just above freezing with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) at minus 9 degrees C. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. For those interested in the weather stats the summit wind strength, as frequently happens in a westerly, was noticeably stronger on the ascent/descent. Temperature: plus 0.9 C, Maximum wind speed 42.7 mph, Wind chill: minus 9.3 C, Average wind speed: 32.3 mph

Issued at: 01:50 on Thu 25 Jan 2024

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